

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 00289 011746Z

43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 PRS-01

SPC-03 FEA-02 OMB-01 SAM-01 XMB-07 DRC-01 /174 W

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8422

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, DA

SUBJ: IWA FOOD AID CONVENTION EXTENSION

REF (A) STATE 017175, (B) BRUSSELS 0662.

PASS AGRICULTURE

1. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED US CONERN OVER EXTENSION
OF FOOD AID CONVENTION OF INTERNATIONAL WHEAT
AGREEMENT (REFTE) WITH BOTH FONOFF AND MINAG.
THEY ADMITTED BEING UNDER PRESSURE TO REMOVE
THEIR OPPOSITION TO FAC EXTENSION BUT SIAD DE-
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CISION NOT YET MADE ON WHETHER TO ACCEPT FAC

PARTICIPATION VIA EC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THEY UNDERSTAND BRITISH OPPOSITION HAS SOFTENED AND DENMARK THEREFORE FACES EMBARRASSING POSSIBILITY OF BEING SOLE EC OPPONENT. BJORN OLSEN, OFFICE DIRECTOR IN DANISH AID AGENCY (DANIDA), WHICH HAS PRIMARY ACTION RESPONSIBILITY, TOLD US QUESTION WILL BE BROUGHT UP FOR MINISTERIAL DECISION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE; HOWEVER, PRESS OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES MAY FORCE DELAY IN DECISION AND HE THEREFORE HOPED FINAL DECISION ON FAC EXTENSION COULD BE DELAYED BEYOND MID-FEBRUARY.

2. OLSEN AND HIS STAFF TOLD US THAT, WHILE BUDGETING FOR ADDITIONAL AID MAY CAUSE SOME DIFFICULTIES, FORECAST PROBLEM IS ONE OF PRINCIPLE. DENMARK ADOPTED POLICY IN 1970 THAT FOOD AID, EXCEPT FOR EMERGENCIES, IS INAPPROPRIATE AND INEFFECTIVE. IT RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, AND THEN ONLY BECAUSE WFP AID IS TIED TO PROJECT ASSISTANCE.

3. ON OTHER HAND, DISCUSSION WITH MINAG DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY KRISTENSEN INDICATES THERE IS FLEXIBILITY IN DANISH OPPOSITION TO EXTENSION OF FAC. HE IMPLIED DANISH WITHDRAWAL AND CURRENT OPPOSITION ARE IN LARGE PART RESULTS OF INTERNAL BUREAUCRATIC DIFFERENCES AS TO WHICH MINISTRY SHOULD HAVE FOOD AID RESPONSIBILITIES AND WHICH SHOULD BEAR THE FOOD AID COSTS. AT PRESENT, RESPONSIBILITY LIES PRIMARILY WITH FOREIGN OFFICE BUT MINAG WOULD BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE MOST OF THE FUNDING.

4. KRISTENSEN AGREES WITH US VIEW THAT FAILURE TO EXTEND FAC WOULD AT THIS TIME IN PARTICULAR HAVE UNFORTUNATE PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES. HE FURTHER FELT DENMARK SHOULD NOT REMAIN RIGID ON THIS SMALL ISSUE. HE ALSO SEEMED TO THINK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 COPENH 00289 011746Z

THE FINAL DECISION ON FAC EXTENSION CAN BE DELAYED BEYOND FEBRUARY 20.

5. COMMENT: WHILE THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME DIVERGENCE OF VIEW BETWEEN THE TWO MINISTRIES, IT IS APPARENT DANES ARE FEELING PRESSURES FOR MORE POSITIVE APPROACH. DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION MAY, HOWEVER, MAKE AFFIRMATIVE DECISIONS.

SION DIFFICULT.

6. BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE, REF (?) RECEIVED AFTER ABOVE DRAFTED.
DANISH EC REPRESENTATIVE APPARENTLY OPERATING
UNDER OLD INSTRUCTIONS AND THESE ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE CHANGED
UNTIL DANISH GOVERNMENT CAN MAKE POLICY DECISION, WHICH MAY
BE ANOTHER TWO WEEKS IN VIEW OTHER URGENT CONSIDERATIONS.
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